

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Gwendolyn Davis, City Clerk	Tony Flowers, Chief of Police
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady led the opening prayer and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 11, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 12, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

6. SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Officer Derrick Smith with the City of Marion Police Department was named the September Employee of the Month. Mayor Brady acknowledged Officer Smith for all of his hard work and stated that he has been a tremendous asset to the Marion Police Department.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson added that Mayor Brady should also be employee of the month for all he does for the City of Marion. Mayor Brady thanked him and added that it had been a busy month.

7. Pee Dee Coalition – Ronette Genwright

Ms. Genwright acknowledged that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. She stated that the Pee Dee Coalition is an organization dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence and child abuse to the needs of victims. The vision is "Through the organizations efforts, in its entirety, the region will be a safer more compassionate community." Ms. Genwright enlightened the City Council on some statics which included that from July 2017 – June 2018 the Pee Dee Coalition assisted 24 family violence victims in Marion County with the emergency shelter and the transitional shelter. The Pee Dee Coalition had training and education classes from July 2017 to June 2018 in which the staff and volunteers provided 34 community education sessions and trainings in Marion County to 964 residents. She made mention of an event

they hosted on October 18, 2018 in which they had some participate in spoken word and open mic to bring awareness to people in the community and the county about domestic violence.

Mayor Brady stated that the City of Marion appreciates what the Pee Dee Coalition does in bringing awareness to domestic violence. He added that he hopes no one has to go through that, but it is a great resource that they have for the citizens.

8. **2nd Reading on Ordinance 18-03, Ordinance Relating to the Recovery of Collection Costs as a Part of Delinquent Debts Collected Pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act**

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept the 2nd Reading on Ordinance 18-03, Ordinance Relating to the Recovery of Collection Costs as a Part of Delinquent Debts Collected Pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act. Councilman Ronald Atkinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

9. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A. Update on CTC Projects

Mr. Ammons stated that the Marshall Street Drainage Project is 90% complete and functioning properly. The projects on Cherokee Ave and Harmon Park had not started because of the wet ground. He added that it would be a week or so before they will start.

B. Storm Damage Update

Mr. Ammons mentioned that the county had a tax sale and some properties were sold. The City's portion was \$5,464 which was on delinquent taxes. The city had to recoup that portion and Mr. Ammons suggested that Council put the funds towards the storm damage expenses from Hurricane Florence.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to act on the recommendation of the Administrator and put the money in the contingency fund until the City knows the results from the storm, Councilman Michael Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ammons continued with the estimates from the storm damage. Councilman Ralph Atkinson added that he received calls thanking the City for spraying for mosquitos. He suggested that the City continues to spray, though the City may not be reimbursed. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt asked if the mosquito spray was really safe and Mr. Ammons assured him that it is. Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that the County of Marion will be spraying, however, they will not be spraying the City of Marion. He expressed his concern that the citizens pay their taxes like everyone else and the County should spray the City of Marion as well. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt and Councilman Ralph Atkinson agreed with Councilman Frazier. Councilman Ralph Atkinson added that it may need to be addressed.

Mr. Ammons mentioned the individual assistance that is required from FEMA. He referenced the document given to council that had information pertaining to estimates of damage from the storm. There is an estimate of \$700,000 worth of damage from Hurricane Florence from individuals within the City limits. He added

that the City will know more when contractors start obtaining building permits or when citizens file for assistance through FEMA to be reimbursed.

10. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney James Brogden did not have an update.

11. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Brady mentioned that council so graciously returned on September 12, 2018 to authorize emergency spending if needed for Hurricane Florence. He added that he, along with other members of council, loaded bags with sand to help others. He mentioned the grapple truck that came in October 10, 2018 and that the city was able to use it pick up many items on the streets after the storm. Mayor Brady added that it was a community involvement and that the people displaced from the storm were so impressed with the hospitality from the citizens of Marion. He stated the shelter closed Saturday, October 6, 2018 and the shelter held 110 people. He thanked all of the local church groups for everything they did. He was appreciative of the previous mayors and councilmembers for thinking ahead in spraying for mosquitos. It is because of them that the City of Marion has been spraying for mosquitos after every hurricane or storm. Mayor Brady recognized Mr. Cliff Wilbanks as the new Recreation Department Director. He added that Mr. Wilbanks was thrown to the woods because his department is over the shelters. He stated the Recreation Department did a great job keeping the gyms clean and making everyone feel welcome. He thanked Councilwoman Tassie Lewis for her efforts with the Winter Clothing Drive to give coats and other winter items to children.

Councilman Michael Baker thanked the City Employees as well. He also mentioned the Catfish Canal. Mayor Brady said that he spoke with Senator Williams, Representative Lucas Atkinson and Senator Lindsey Graham's office. Mayor Brady added that they are trying to find the funding. Councilman Baker stated that it is starting to push the water back into the city. Mayor Brady reassured Councilman Baker that Catfish definitely needs to be worked on for drainage.

Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that Thomas Trailer Park is still Thomas Trailer Park. He added that nothing is being done about it.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson thanked the City Employees and Mayor Brady for everything they did after Hurricane Florence.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that he wanted to reiterate what everyone said. He stated that it was a devastating storm and many people had a lot of damage. He added that everyone pulled together, including the City Employees and First Responders, working really hard to keep Marion the "nice little town". He acknowledged that it is stressful on the employees to leave their families to go out and work along with the First Responders. He continued that they do deserve all of the credit. He also thanked the Mayor for all of his hard work.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis agreed with the others adding that everyone pulled together demonstrating true unity. She stated that she had three family members that lost everything and she saw people walking through water up to their chest. She thanked everyone that helped. She mentioned the Rise Above It All 2018 Winter Clothing Drive. She asked everyone to donate any type of new winterized items because we are expecting a really cold winter and many families have lost

everything. All donations can be taken to the Shannon Wilkerson Gym, Monday-Friday from 11am – 5pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt mentioned Hurricane Florence and that the water kept rising even after the storm though there was no rain. He recognized the Mayor and City Employees who were out beating bushes trying to help the city. He mentioned that the repairs will be astronomical. He gave his sentiments to Councilman Ralph Atkinson who dealt with some loss to his home. He recognized the homecoming as one of the greatest that he could ever imagine. He stated that his company will donate 10 items to Councilwoman Lewis' clothing drive.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

13. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Gwendolyn T. Davis
Taped: October 9, 2018